UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2001/84
26 December 2000

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-seventh session
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Introduction

1. Following a recommendation by the World Conference on Human Rights, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004). The goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, culture, the environment, development, education and health. The theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people: partnership in action".

2. In its resolution 50/157, the General Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the Decade. One of the main objectives of the Decade is the adoption of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the further development of international standards as well as national legislation for the protection and promotion of the human rights of indigenous people. Another major objective of the Decade is to further the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to indigenous people of all high-level international conferences, including the World Conference on Human Rights, in particular its recommendation that consideration be given to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system. The Assembly also recommended that the objectives of the Decade should be assessed by quantifiable outcomes that would improve the lives of indigenous people and that could be evaluated halfway through the Decade (1999) and at its end (2004).

3. In its resolution 52/108, the General Assembly decided to designate the High Commissioner for Human Rights as Coordinator for the Decade. The High Commissioner was requested to submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade. The High Commissioner, through the Secretary-General, submitted the latest annual report on the implementation of the programme of activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. That report is contained in document A/55/268.

4. In its resolution 2000/56, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner, in her capacity as Coordinator for the Decade, to submit an updated annual report reviewing activities within the United Nations system under the programme of activities for the Decade to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session under the agenda item entitled "Indigenous issues". The present report provides information made available since the submission of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

Indigenous Fellowship Programme

5. The 2000 Indigenous Fellowship Programme was implemented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with the adopted general programme outline and the specified thematic programme. The Programme lasted from 1 June to 30 November 2000.

6. As in previous years, the Programme consisted of an intensive course on human rights, training modules in the different United Nations agencies, as well as visits to several non-governmental organizations. As a part of the practical work experience in the United Nations system, the four fellows from Bangladesh, Canada, Nepal and Rwanda assisted the secretariat in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. The four candidates were awarded a certificate for satisfactory completion of the Programme by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

7. In collaboration with the Institute of Human Rights of the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, the Indigenous Fellowship Programme was expanded in 2000 to provide training for indigenous fellows from Latin America. The four fellows from Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru spent three months at the University of Deusto where they received human rights training and then two months in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to gain practical experience.

Working group established in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32

8. The sixth session of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was held in Geneva from 20 November to 1 December 2000. The report of the working group is contained in document E/CN.4/2001/85.

Workshop on Indigenous Media

9. One of the recommendations of the first Workshop on Indigenous Media, held in Madrid from 26 to 28 January 1998, was that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should organize a second workshop to develop activities that would strengthen the indigenous media, within the framework of the International Decade. Consequently, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information organized the second Workshop on Indigenous Media in New York from 11 to 14 December 2000. The purpose of the workshop was to bring representatives of the indigenous and non-indigenous media together to propose ways of promoting the rights and cultures of indigenous peoples through the written press, radio, television and other means.

10. The workshop was attended by some 50 participants. The workshop made a number of recommendations which can be found in its report to be submitted to the nineteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in July 2001.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

11. In its resolution 55/80 the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/22, to establish a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as a subsidiary organ of the Council, thereby fulfilling an important objective of the Decade, and encouraged all parties concerned to engage in the necessary preparations for the establishment of the Forum.

Technical cooperation

12. OHCHR has intensified efforts with a view to mainstreaming indigenous issues into human rights projects and programmes developed within the framework of its technical cooperation programme. Two projects in Guatemala and Mexico will incorporate a focus on indigenous issues and it is foreseen that other projects will do so in the future.

United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

13. The United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/163 of 21 December 1993, 49/214 of 23 December 1994 and 50/157 of 21 December 1996 "to accept and administer voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other private institutions and individuals for the purpose of funding projects and programmes during the Decade".

14. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157, an advisory group was established, including indigenous people, to assist the secretariat of the Fund and make recommendations relating to the Fund to the Coordinator of the Decade, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, for approval on behalf of the Secretary-General. The current Advisory Group is composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, who are all indigenous experts (see below), the Chairperson of the Working Group

on Indigenous Populations and another United Nations expert, specialized in project and programme management, appointed by the Coordinator of the Decade. The latest reports on the Fund are contained in General Assembly document A/55/268 (paras. 12-19), Commission on Human Rights document E/CN.4/2000/85 (paras. 7-14) and Working Group on Indigenous Populations document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/3, which contains the report of the Advisory Group on its fifth session. Information on the Fund is also available on the OHCHR Web site (www.unhchr.ch) under "OHCHR programmes", "Funds".

15. The Advisory Group at its fifth session, held on 13 and 14 April 2000, continued to give priority in allocating funds available to indigenous projects and programmes. It examined 60 applications for project grants received within the deadline and the mandate of the Fund, in the light of the established selection criteria. Sufficient funding was available to cover 20 project grants recommended by the Advisory Group and approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, for a total of about US$ 175,000 (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/3, paras. 13-14 and annex IV for the list of projects).

16. Besides the project grants, and following the recommendations of the Advisory Group approved in consultation with the OHCHR Indigenous Project Team, other activities in the cost plan for 2000 included: (a) a second workshop for indigenous journalists organized at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 14 December 2000 for an amount of US$ 64,000; (b) a subregional workshop on "Peaceful and constructive group accommodation in situations involving minorities and indigenous peoples" to be held in Kidal, Mali, from 8 to 13 January 2001, for a maximum amount of US$ 30,000; (c) another subregional seminar in another country in Africa for a maximum of US$ 30,000 (not yet carried out); (d) a workshop on indigenous children held in Geneva from 19 to 21 July 2000 for experts and indigenous representatives, for an amount of about US$ 23,000; (e) the fifth session of the Advisory Group for about US$ 6,000; and (f) translation, editing and printing of the United Nations Guide for Indigenous Peoples for a maximum amount of US$ 19,800. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance such as this Fund, to the above-mentioned amounts should be added 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures to be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, as well as 13 per cent for programme support costs. The total amount needed for 2000 was therefore about US$ 450,000.

17. The Advisory Group's view was that, in order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily at its sixth session, scheduled to take place from 2 to 5 April 2001, the Fund would need an amount of about US$ 470,000 before the beginning of the sixth session, which includes the amounts needed for project grants, the organization of workshops and seminars and the participation of indigenous representatives that the Group might recommend at its sixth session.

18. The following new contributions received are available for the sixth session of the Advisory Group in April 2000 according to information available at OHCHR as at 30 November 2000:

Donor	Amount in US$	Paid on	Paid in
Germany	21 119	11 Nov. 2000	Geneva
Japan	25 000	9 June 2000	New York
Netherlands	101 052	10 Dec. 1999[a]	New York
New Zealand	11 807	12 April 2000	Geneva
Sweden	33 208	30 May 2000	Geneva
Total	192 186		

[a] According to information received on 24 November 2000, the contribution was paid in New York. The official receipt voucher had not yet been received by OHCHR from the United Nations Treasurer's Office as at 30 November 2000.

19. The following pledges were registered as at 30 November 2000:

Donor	Amount in US$	Local currency	Pledged on	Pledged in
Chile	5 000		23 Nov. 1999	New York
Chile	5 000		1-2 Nov. 2000	New York
Norway	53 248[a]	500 000 Kroner	17 Nov. 2000	Geneva
Tunisia	951		4-5 Nov. 1998	New York
Movement for Defense of Democracy	200	1.4m cedis	6 Oct. 2000	Ghana
Total	64 399			

[a] At the United Nations official exchange rate of November 2000.

20. Voluntary contributions can be made:

(a) By bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund":

- in New York in US dollars (US$): c/o Chase Manhattan Bank, N.Y., A/C: 001-1-508629, G/L: UN-0503456, US Banking Code: 021000021

- or in Geneva, in US dollars (US$): c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Acc. 240-C-590-160.1;

- or in Swiss francs (CHF) or other currencies: c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Acc. 240-C-590-160.0, Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A;

(b) By cheque to the order of the "United Nations" to be sent to The Treasurer, United Nations Office in Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

The payment order should bear the reference "For the Indigenous Decade Fund account IV".

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

21. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985 to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights by providing them with financial assistance funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. The Fund is administered in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General assisted by a Board of Trustees, through OHCHR. The General Assembly broadened the mandate of the Fund in its resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995 by deciding that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

22. The mandate of the Board of Trustees is to advise the Secretary-General on the administration of the Fund, through OHCHR. The five current Board members are themselves indigenous persons: Mr. Michael Dodson (Australia), Ms. Naomi N. Kipuri (Kenya), Mr. José Carlos Morales (Costa Rica), Ms. Tove S. Petersen (Denmark) and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Philippines), who is the Chairperson of the Board.

23. At its thirteenth session, held from 10 to 12 April 2000, the Board of Trustees considered 119 applications from indigenous communities and organizations requesting financial assistance to participate in the eighteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, held in Geneva from 24 to 30 July 2000, and 36 applications requesting financial assistance to participate in the fifth session of the working group on a draft declaration, held in Geneva from 20 November to 1 December 2000. Having examined the applications for grants in the light of the established criteria for selection, the Board recommended the approval of: (a) 66 grants, for an amount of US$ 163,000, to allow representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the working group on Indigenous Populations; and (b) 29 grants, for an amount of US$ 102,200, for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the working group on the draft declaration (for a list of the beneficiaries, see document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/4). The Board also recommended that sufficient funds (amounting to a minimum of US$ 100,000) be allocated for grants to allow

indigenous representatives to attend a possible meeting on a permanent forum in 2001, pending the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly which could further extend the mandate of the Fund. It was agreed that priority should in this case be given to beneficiaries who had participated in the first and second sessions of the ad hoc working group on a permanent forum in 1999 and 2000 and that all applicants should comply with the criteria previously recommended by the Board. A total of US$ 365,200 was therefore approved for disbursement.

24. The Board's view, expressed at its thirteenth session, was that in order to take into consideration the increased number of grants approved (see. A/55/202, para. 28 and annexes III and IV) and to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund would need $600,000 before its fourteenth session, which will take place from 28 to 30 March 2001. This amount includes the amount needed for travel grants, the annual session of the Board, programme support costs and the operating cash reserve. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, such as this Fund, the amount includes 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures which must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, as well as 13 per cent for programme support costs. For additional information on the thirteenth session of the Board see the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the status of the Fund (A/55/202) and the note by the secretariat of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/4).

25. As of 30 November 2000, according to information available at OHCHR, only one new contribution was received, from the Netherlands (US$ 29,489), on 26 September 2000. The following pledges were registered: Bolivia (US$ 1,000), on 2-3 November 1999; Chile (US$ 5,000 and US$ 5,000), on 2-3 November 1999 and 1-2 November 2000, respectively; Norway (US$ 53,248), on 17 November 2000 and Switzerland (US$ 22,222), on 17 April 2000; for a total amount of US$ 86,470.

26. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2000/56 and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and the Protection of Human Rights, in its resolutions 2000/14 and 2000/15, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to consider contributing to the Fund. As recommended by the Board of Trustees and the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent, on 20 October 2000, a letter to all Governments appealing to them to contribute to the Fund and drawing their attention to the above-mentioned resolutions of the Commission and Sub-Commission. At the invitation of the Bureau of the Commission, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees addressed the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session and also appealed for new and regular contributions. The Chairperson estimated that an amount of US$ 600,000 would be necessary to cover the expenditure foreseen for 2001.

27. Voluntary contributions can be made in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 20. Payment orders should bear the reference "For the Indigenous Populations Fund, account IH".